



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Internal Services Department

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Director

*To enrich lives through effective and caring service.*

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May 5, 2014

To: Each Supervisor

From: Tom Tindall  
Director

Subject: **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REPORT #9**

This memo provides an update on the accomplishments and activities under the Countywide Energy and Environmental Policy (Policy) that your Board approved on January 16, 2007.

This report also discusses the County Office of Sustainability (COS) within the Internal Services Department (ISD) and its relationship to the Policy.

## **TEAM ORGANIZATION**

Under the Policy, the Energy and Environmental Team (Team) was created to investigate and develop energy and environmental programs for implementation in County facilities and operations. The Team provided support to County departments for programs initiated by the Board, including those that impact constituents countywide or in County unincorporated areas.

In September 2009, your Board approved the creation of a County Office of Sustainability within ISD to respond to legislation, regulation, and policy related to climate change, and to coordinate energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability programs within the County and the region. ISD is also administering American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants related to countywide energy efficiency programs, including:

- \$15.4 million from the formula-allocated Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG);
- \$8 million from the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds;
- \$14 million from the \$30 million competitive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, termed Better Buildings Program, awarded to the County and three other California regional entities.

In the August 2010 status report, we noted that there was a large degree of overlap between the responsibilities of the COS and the Team. We recommended that all functions previously assigned to the Team be absorbed by the ISD. In October 2010, the Executive Office submitted a request to the Board and the Audit Committee to revise the Policy to reflect this change. The Audit Committee held a hearing on February 17, 2011 and approved the revised Policy, providing authorization for ISD to absorb the duties previously assigned to the Team. ISD will continue to inform your Board, the CEO, and departments of the status of environmental and energy efficiency initiatives through periodic meetings, semi-annual reports, and updates to an improved and expanded <http://green.lacounty.gov> website.

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The last report was issued on August 16, 2010. The following is a summary of significant activities and accomplishments since that report.

- A portion of the formula-allocated EECBG funds have been designated to develop, implement and administer the Los Angeles County Energy Program (LACEP), a comprehensive home energy retrofit program. In an effort to coordinate with other statewide and local efforts, LACEP has been rebranded as Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County (EUC-LAC). EUC-LAC doesn't currently include a property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program due to complications at the Federal level that were detailed to your Board in a report dated July 22, 2010. Although PACE is on hold, under EUC-LAC financing tools will be made available to homeowners who undertake energy upgrades. The County is working with the local investor owned utilities, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, the municipally owned utilities, cities within the County, and various other stakeholder groups to ensure the success of EUC-LAC. ISD is overseeing various marketing, outreach, participant recruitment, workforce development, incentive, and administration efforts associated with EUC-LAC. More information about this statewide effort can be found at [www.energyupgradecalifornia.com](http://www.energyupgradecalifornia.com). More information about County-specific efforts can be found at [www.lacountyenergyprogram.org](http://www.lacountyenergyprogram.org).
- On June 15, 2010, your Board authorized the acceptance of \$8 million in an intergovernmental contract with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and delegated authority to the Director of Internal Services to administer the associated contract. These funds are leveraging other grant monies by augmenting the marketing and workforce development components of EUC-LAC. Under the CEC funding, ISD is working to expand comprehensive marketing efforts into cities throughout the County by working with the Councils of Governments and directly with other local governments. Scholarships for contractors and other eligible professionals will be provided under this funding to incentivize the local workforce to obtain additional skills and certifications that support EUC-LAC.

- On May 25, 2010, your Board authorized the acceptance of \$30 million of Competitive EECBG funds, under the Better Buildings Program, from the Department of Energy (DOE) and delegated authority to the Director of Internal Services to administer the associated contract. The County will serve as the prime recipient of this award, on behalf of itself and the three other regional entities, and is responsible for overall program administration. Under the Better Buildings Program, the County and its other regional partners are developing and implementing innovative pilot programs with the goal of encouraging and tracking energy efficiency retrofit projects across the state. The County's portion of the award is \$14 million and will serve to supplement existing funds to expand upon the marketing, outreach, workforce development, and monitoring efforts being implemented under EUC-LAC.
- The formula-allocated EECBG includes funds to establish Environmental Service Centers around the County to provide information, materials, and resources to constituents about a range of County and non-County programs. The contractor team hired to implement EECBG programs has created an Environmental Service Center program proposal and marketing plan, and portable kiosks and displays are being created. The contractor will also be providing a dedicated half-time staff person to service the displays as EUC-LAC launches to the public. ISD has established information centers in field offices in each of the five supervisorial districts that include literature racks containing information about various County, utility, and other environmental programs. Staff at these field offices has been trained so that they are able to assist constituents in finding information about the various programs.
- A portion of the formula-allocated EECBG funds have been allocated for support of the County's Green Building Program. These funds will be used to provide industry stakeholder and constituent outreach, as well as offer training for County staff related to Program requirements and implementation. On May 12, 2010, the Green Building Program Implementation Task Force submitted its first annual Report to the Board of Supervisors responding to questions posed by the Board and outlining recommended changes to the ordinances. ISD is currently competitively soliciting vendors for the staff training and stakeholder outreach services to support the Program.
- The Los Angeles Regional Collaborative (LARC) for Climate Action and Sustainability will be utilizing a portion of the County's formula-allocated EECBG to oversee the creation of a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) for the County. The LARC, which includes members from local jurisdictions, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities, formed a Regional Climate Action Planning Committee to outline work to be completed as part of the RCAP, help define analysis parameters as the project gets underway, and participate in on-going coordination efforts. A scope for the greenhouse gas emissions inventory has been finalized and data collection and initial analysis has started. More information about the LARC and the RCAP can be found at <http://www.laregionalcollaborative.org>.

- ISD and the CIO have completed an online Solar Map which provides building owners in the County with information about solar power installations: <http://solarmap.lacounty.gov>. The Solar Map utilizes data from the CIO's latest aerial imagery mapping project and solar power estimation software to provide preliminary savings information from a solar power project, information about project costs, installation details, and resources for information about solar technology and installations. In January 2010, the Solar Map was awarded a Best in California Award for Green Information Technology. Staff is utilizing formula-allocated EECBG funds to enhance the Solar Map by increasing the map's functionality, creating new user-facing tools, and providing a Spanish language version of the site.
- Both ISD and Public Works received Quality and Productivity Commission Investment Fund grants and loans to certify their respective headquarters buildings under LEED Existing Building - Operations and Maintenance (EBOM) guidelines. Efforts are underway to achieve LEED EBOM certification by June 2011. ISD is on target to receive a silver certification and DPW will likely achieve certified level status. Both ISD and Public Works have submitted their applications to the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for review and are anticipating responses shortly. ISD is also developing building operation policies and standards that are consistent with LEED EBOM requirements for use in all County buildings.
- As part of the LEED EBOM certification process for both buildings, staff training sessions are being held to promote the value of sustainable construction and building operations. Trainings were organized into three levels to serve at least 75 staff persons from various departments. To date, two Level One classes have been taught to a total of 50 County employees and one Level Two class was taught to 25 County employees. ISD is planning to offer additional Level One, Level Two, and Level Three classes throughout 2011.
- Through the County's membership in the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC), the County and other member local governments are able to pool resources to more efficiently track, report on, and participate in key energy and environmental activities, including regulatory proceedings. ISD staff has continued to meet regularly with LGSEC members to discuss issues related to utility rebate programs and policies, data acquisition, and recent legislation.
- ISD is working to expand and enhance the County's Energy and Environmental website <http://green.lacounty.gov>. This website is a major outreach component for County programs, as well as a forum for interdepartmental communication and collaboration. The new design of the website has been finalized and staff is working to create the new pages and content. The enhancements currently underway will serve to improve the website's user-friendliness and update its design.

Each Supervisor

May 5, 2014

Page 5

- The Team continues to support a variety of County programs that are led by other organizations. These include:
  - Developing programs to limit or ban the use of polystyrene food containers and plastic bags (led by the CEO and Public Works);
  - Implementing the Green Building Program and participating in the Green Building Program Implementation Task Force (led by Regional Planning and Public Works);
  - Implementing the County Capital Project Program to certify new County buildings (>10,000 square feet) at the United States Green Building Council's LEED Silver level;
  - Offering feasibility assessments to facilities contemplating LEED certification.

Further details on the Team activities described above are included as attachments and may be found at <http://green.lacounty.gov>. If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 267-2101 or Howard Choy at (323) 881-3939.

TT:JJ:LR

c: William Fujioka, CEO  
Each Department Head